

EDMONTON

metro



Move over Virginia ...

New Zealand is for lovers

Page 16

Railway lands eyed for major development

Old Strathcona. CP looking into mixed-use site for former yard

**RYAN
TUMILTY**
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A massive new development could be coming to Old Strathcona, after Canadian Pacific Railway announced it would be redeveloping its south Edmonton Yard.

The yard, which runs between 82 Avenue and 63 Avenue along Gateway Boulevard, is one of several properties across the country the company is looking to sell and redevelop with development firm Dream Unlimited.

A spokesman for CP said the company doesn't have a specific timeline or plans for the site, but it is starting a process.

"We will undertake an assessment of the opportunity over the next six months and

then move into the planning stage," said spokesman Jeremy Berry.

The company said the site is 92 acres and it is looking to redevelop into a mixed-use development.

Murray Davidson, with the Old Strathcona Business Association, said the development could be great for opening up the area.

"We're hoping it will include a thoroughfare connection or a connection at 76 Avenue to get across," he said.

Generally, he said, the scale of the development could be enormous for the area.

"Having all that kind of development is such a huge opportunity," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson said he's also excited about the changes that are possible for the area, but he said there would be a lot of work to do in approvals and zoning.

"It's going to be a long haul to get there, but I am really excited for the city to be able to work with CP," he said.



UBER DEBATE DRAWS A CROWD

City council chambers were packed Tuesday night as councillors debated the taxi industry and the impact Uber has had on the city. Hundreds of drivers filled the chambers demanding the city crack down on the company. Story, page 6. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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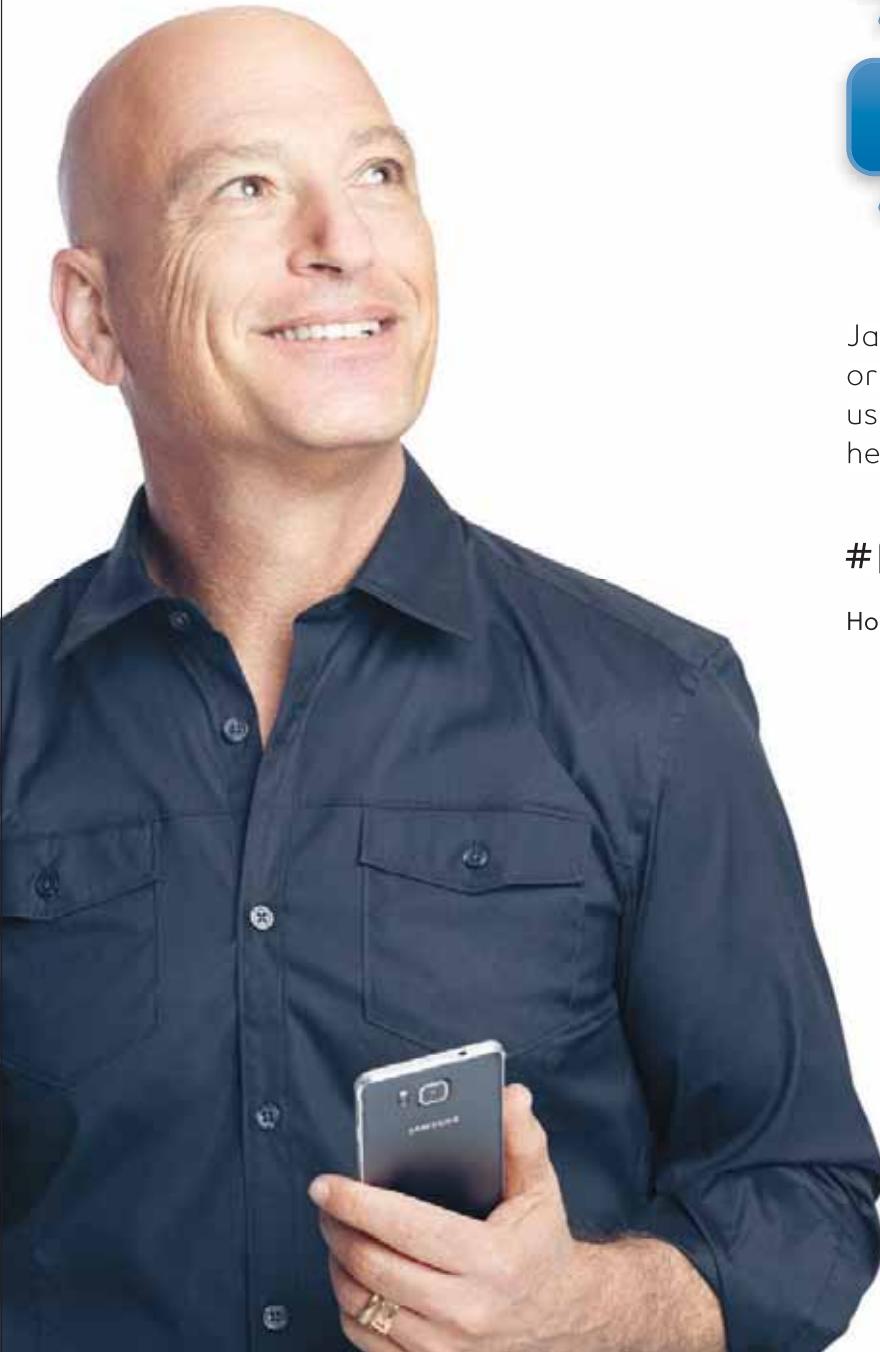
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Politics

Sohi mulling federal seat

Edmonton city Coun. Amarjeet Sohi is considering a run for the federal Liberals.

Sohi said he is exploring running for the party's nomination in Edmonton-Mill Woods, after being approached by people in the community.

"I have been approached by local leaders from the community who are concerned about the direction the Harper government is taking Canada," he said.

Sohi said he is considering the offer.

The riding was created in the latest boundary re-adjustment, but Conservative MP Tim Uppal has announced he intends to seek the party's nomination there. **RYAN TUMILTY/METRO**

Shooting

Mounties were checking licence plates just before being shot: RCMP

What started as a routine early morning shift turned violent for two Mounties who were shot at a St. Albert casino Saturday morning.

RCMP Sgt. Josée Valiquette confirmed Tuesday that Const. David Wynn and Auxiliary Const. Derek Bond were checking licence plates at the Apex Casino parking lot.

The pair entered the casino to review surveillance tapes and identified Shawn Rehn as the suspect linked to the stolen vehicle.

As they attempted to apprehend Rehn, Wynn was shot in the head while Bond was shot in the torso and arm. **METRO**



The United in Light Ribbon Campaign has seen dozens of volunteers tie white ribbons to trees in St. Albert to honour the victims of the RCMP shootings on the weekend. **LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO**

A community works to heal after shootings

St. Albert. Residents cope with RCMP attack through campaign and prayer services

LUCY HAINES
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St. Albert residents are finding ways to cope with and grieve the shootings of two RCMP members on the weekend.

About 150 citizens and local faith leaders gathered at a candlelight service at the Next Christian Community Church Tuesday evening to pray for the wounded police officers and their families, as well as

for the larger community.

"People need to ventilate — it's raw and painful to talk about for residents here, but think of what the members that were on the same watch that night are going through," said Cyril Gowler, chaplain with the St. Albert RCMP Detachment. "People grieve internally, but they mourn externally, as a community."

On Monday, St. Albert residents and friends Debbie Raymond and Tara McCormick started the United in Light Ribbon Campaign as a way to cope with feelings of helplessness, according to McCormick.

"We just wanted to come together to do something positive. There are so many touching messages on our

Facebook page. People are offering to help tie ribbons or asking where to make a donation, so we'll keep going and spread the light," she said.

St. Albert Mayor Nolan Crouse said while the outpouring of support for the RCMP through flowers, ribbons and Facebook postings is evidence of how much citizens are touched by the shooting, he is encouraging residents to find their own way to show they care for the Wynn and Bond families.

"I think there are things we can do," said resident Henry Vogelaar, who came to the prayer service.

"It's not a normal thing to happen here, and sometimes you need to be with others — to talk about it."

United in Light

- In just 24 hours, the United in Light Ribbon Campaign, created by two longtime St. Albert residents, has seen dozens of citizens create and tie over 600 white ribbons to city trees.
- The Ribbon Factory in Edmonton donated 7,800 metres of white ribbon.
- A fundraiser for the families of RCMP officers Const. David Wynn and Auxiliary Const. Derek Bond will be held Feb. 7 at the Celtic Knot Pub in St. Albert.



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1 NEWS

Edmonton to let it slide this summer if it's given the slip

Outdoor event. Proposal sets aside a single street this July for an aquatic bash described as 'that thing you dreamed of when you were a kid'

ALEX MIGDAL
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The city has tentatively approved a proposal to set up a one-day 300-metre slip-and-slide down a single street — about the length of three football fields.

And for those at risk of bruising, buckets, flotation devices and water guns will also be welcome at the July 18 event.

The aquatic bash is the brainchild of T.R. Gourley, who launched the first Slide the City event with a group of friends in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July 2013. He's since slid through multiple

American cities and is turning his focus this summer to Canadians longing for some Vitamin D.

"Canadians must love slip-and-slides because they're going crazy up there for it. So many people are loving it that they're shutting down our servers," Gourley said Monday.

The trick is finding a street to host all that slick vinyl. City officials are hoping to secure a downtown street with a slope and are working with Alberta Health Services to ensure the use of safe water.

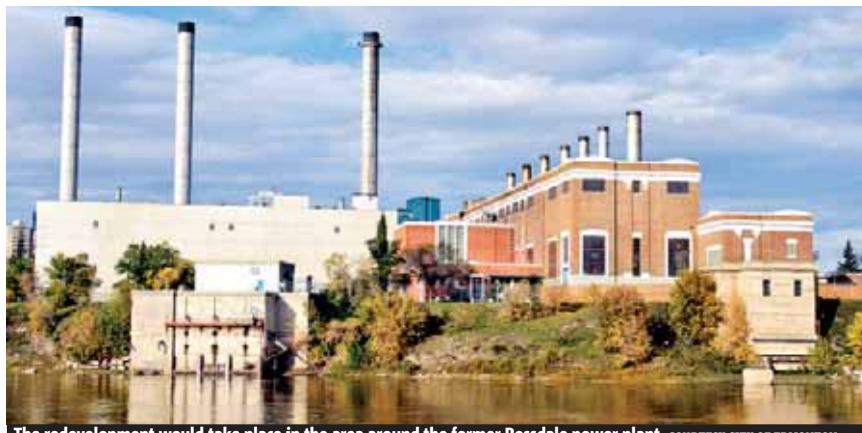
"I definitely see the appeal. It's that thing you dreamed of when you were a kid," said Charlene Roche, the city's festival and events liaison. "Hopefully we will be able to get them fully approved."

Gourley said registration will open in February for the July 18 event. Ticket prices will range from \$15 to \$25.



A man aboard a whale floatie goes a little sideways as he plunges down a 300-metre slip-and-slide during the first Slide the City event in Salt Lake City, Utah. City officials have tentatively approved a similar event for Edmonton in July. METRO FILE

Canal, ballpark being considered for Rossdale



The redevelopment would take place in the area around the former Rossdale power plant. COURTESY CITY OF EDMONTON

Pest control

Smell a rat? Just call 310-RATS

Officials have long claimed that Alberta is "rat free," but have bolstered a hotline to report vermin sightings.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development has

listed the new number, 310-RATS (7287), in response to time delays on past reported sightings.

Every year, approximately 100 to 150 rat sightings are reported in Alberta, with 30 to 40 coming from Calgary alone.

Phil Merrill, a provincial rat and pest specialist who's worked in the field

43 years, said 99 per cent of those reports are false alarms.

Many are misidentified pocket gophers, which stay underground most of the year, he said. Most often, however, they're juvenile muskrats, which Merrill describes as "very similar to a rat."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

The city will decide soon on whether the future of Rossdale will include a canal, new restaurants or even a ballpark.

Councillors looked at a host of options for the future of the area Tuesday, but voted to set up a special session to walk through all the decisions, with a date to be determined.

Sol Rolingher, a lawyer with a volunteer group proposing the canal at Rossdale

"There is no value in the land because it's land that

Quoted

"Our objective is not to make money. Our objective is to do the right thing."

Sol Rolingher, a lawyer with the volunteer group proposing the canal at Rossdale

nobody wants," he said. "The whole idea is that people will want to go down there."

Rolingher's proposal would see a volunteer board take on the development and return profit to the city.

"Our objective is not to

make money. Our objective is to do the right thing," he said.

Coun. Bryan Anderson is among those supporting the idea. He said council has had the time to do something in Rossdale.

"Council hasn't answered the questions for 10 years and they're offering to do it in 10 weeks," he said.

Coun. Dave Loken said the idea has merits and is worth doing because it would cost the city nothing.

"We have been talking about it and talking about it and we haven't done anything." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Pedestrian fatality

Man, 72, dead after getting hit by SUV while crossing street

A 72-year-old man has died in hospital after being hit by an SUV while trying to cross the street on Saturday.

At approximately 8 p.m.

on Jan. 17, EPS responded to a pedestrian collision near 105 Avenue and 101 Street.

A Volkswagen SUV hit the man as he was attempting to cross 101 Street. The vehicle had entered the intersection on a green light.

The man was treated on scene and taken to hospital, where he died from his

injuries.

Edmonton police's Major Collision Investigation Unit has taken over the investigation. Charges have not been laid at this time and speed and alcohol are not being considered factors in the crash.

This is the city's second pedestrian fatality of 2015. METRO



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City councillors get an earful about Uber app

Big debate. Cab drivers filled out city hall's chambers as council debated a motion seeking an injunction against Uber


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Edmonton city councillors got a range of directions Tuesday night for how to fix the city's taxi system to deal with the sharp turn Uber has thrown at the industry.

As of press time, council was considering a motion that would consider a temporary injunction against the company, while the city considered possible bylaw changes to allow them to work and other improvements to the taxi system.



Rideshare App Uber launched in the city in December. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Mayor Don Iveson said there are a lot of moving parts in the system and he didn't expect to solve it Tuesday.

"Clearly something needs to change in our regulatory framework and I think most people agree there needs to be more supply," he said.

Uber's public policy manager for Canada, Chris Sch-

aifer encouraged the city to be bold and consider shaking up the regulations to allow Uber to operate.

"Edmonton isn't a cautious kind of city that is afraid to take chances," he said. "Edmonton is a city willing to embrace its future and try new ways of doing things."

Several cab drivers said

Uber was hurting their livelihood, but were split on whether more plates was the solution.

Edmonton Taxi Service group president Phil Strong told council to clamp down on the company because, he said, it refuses to play by the rules.

"Uber does what they want, when they want, for whatever they want," he said.

Balraj Manhas, president of the United Cabbies Association, urged councillors to issue an injunction against Uber and not consider any way to accommodate the company.

"We must stop this Uber thing. Please don't waste time on this company."

Council vote results

Go to metronews.ca for the outcome of the vote.

Education. Length of SLA grading times an issue

Teachers and principals polled by Edmonton's public school district found a series of issues with the province's new testing model, but agreed the tests had valuable information about students.

A report submitted to the Edmonton Public School Board Tuesday, included feedback from principals and teachers that participated in the Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) pilot project last September and October.

The SLAs are intended to replace the end-of-year Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs).

While teachers reported the test provided important insight into student strengths and thinking patterns, certain issues were identified on technical glitches and how long it took to get the results.

EPSB Superintendent Darrel Robertson said teachers were hopeful SLAs would give them insight into their students' level of education at the beginning of the year, but they didn't get the results until December.

"One of the limitations in

Testing kids

- **Grade 3 SLAs.** The intake was split into four parts: a digitally scored literacy component, a literacy performance task component, a digitally scored numeracy component and a numeracy performance task component.

terms of the timing of the release of the results from the province for the Grade 3 SLAs in this pilot, was that a good chunk of the year had gone by already and the teachers didn't have the information to be able to structure their supports for the... classroom," he said.

Moving forward, Robertson said, the district will have a few schools participating in the Grade 6 and Grade 9 SLAs, yet he questioned if the tests would run next year based on concerns identified with the Grade 3 pilot project.

LEAH HOLODAY/METRO



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Transit. City investigating heated bus shelters

Edmonton transit could soon be a warmer way to get around town, as the city takes the first steps toward looking at heated bus shelters.

The city is putting out a call for information to companies that provide the warmer shelters to see what technology could be available, but emphasized this would just be a first look at the idea.

"All we are doing is finding out from the industry what is available, in the way of technology and equipment that they have," said Jim Stein, the general supervisor of transit facilities. "Once we have an idea as to how much interest is out

there, we may ask them if there is a prototype to test," he said.

Stein said the city wants to encourage as much transit use as possible and this can help.

"This is one of the things we are thinking may make our customers' experience more pleasant," he said.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said the city couldn't afford to make all shelters heated, but it should be open to some change.

"That's unaffordable and we can't sustain that, but at high-use bus shelters we should be looking at that," he said. "I think at high-frequency bus stops we need to look at heated shelters." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Health. Group proposes levy on sugary drinks

The future of sugary drinks in Alberta isn't looking too sweet.

In light of falling provincial revenue, the Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention (APCCP) is calling for a levy on soft drinks.

"As Albertans, all we have to do is read the paper every day and we can see that (the government) is looking for sources of revenue," said Kate Chidester, vice-president of health and research at the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Alberta.

"This is an opportunity to help, both from a revenue-generation side for the government, and from a health perspective."

The coalition is calling for a tax of 50 cents per litre of consumption. They estimate the levy will generate \$158 million annually, and that's assuming sales drop by 20 per cent after the price hike.

Rachel Prowse, a registered

Quoted

"We believe very strongly that reducing the consumption of these drinks would help us to live a longer life."

Kate Chidester, vice-president of health and research at the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Alberta

dietitian and PhD student at the University of Alberta, said focusing on disease prevention is an investment that will lower the cost of health care.

"We are paying billions of dollars in health-care costs," she said. "So any kind of intervention to alleviate this would benefit us all."

The APCCP recommends that a fraction of the money generated be used to "re-invest" in a wellness foundation to offer sustainable health promotion programs in Alberta. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO



Racina House, front, and Brenda Cano practise their penguin sliding Tuesday afternoon at MacEwan University's inaugural Winterfest. ALEX MIGDAL/FOR METRO

Winterfest still a blast despite warm weather

MacEwan University. Students embrace seasonal celebration

ALEX MIGDAL
edmonton@metronews.ca

Kasia Kuncewicz and Daria Szwedowicz rang in the winter semester in quintessentially Canadian fashion: roasting marshmallows beside a lawn covered in snow.

Freed of toques and jack-

ets, the two MacEwan University students took special pleasure in assembling their s'mores as temperatures hovered around 1 C Tuesday afternoon.

"We were walking around looking for lunch and found free lunch right here," Kuncewicz said, laughing.

The pair were among hundreds of post-secondary students who revelled in the spring-like weather at MacEwan University's inaugural

Winterfest.

A spinoff of the campus's back-to-school Fall Fest, the winter bash featured snowman-building competitions, puck-shooting competitions and, of course, ice-cold beer.

Organizers wanted to welcome the oft-forgotten students who start their academic year in January.

"Because it's winter in Alberta, you want to get people out doing activities and get the energy level up," said Jamie Beagan, services

manager with the students' association of MacEwan University.

For third-year arts students Racina House and Brenda Cano, the afternoon quickly turned slushy.

The pair practised sliding on penguin-patterned toboggans down a snowy hill in front of the Clock Tower.

"We were just sitting on the steps thinking, 'This is a super typical college experience right now,'" House said.



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Justice review. Mackay cool to top Mountie's idea

Justice Minister Peter MacKay said he doesn't see the need for an in-depth examination of justice system protocols as suggested by the head of the RCMP after the recent shootings of two Mounties in Alberta.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said last weekend the fact the suspected shooter was let free despite having a violent criminal history including a series of overlapping firearm bans may spark a review.

"I don't think, in my view, in my experience, having some sort of a pause where we have a full-blown examination or royal commission or some sort of a study is really going to provide us the answers that we need," MacKay said Tuesday in Montreal.

"The answers that we need are the ongoing efforts to prevent crime, to deal specifically

with individuals who are drifting, who are feeling disconnected and marginalized and to provide the police with the necessary support, tools and laws that they need to protect Canadians."

Const. David Wynn has been in hospital since he was gunned down Saturday morning and is not expected to survive. Auxiliary Const. Derek Bond was shot in the arm and torso and faces a long recovery.

"My thoughts are first and foremost with the two officers that were injured. One of them is from a community not far from where I grew up in Nova Scotia," MacKay said.

MacKay made his comments in Montreal after announcing \$220,000 in federal funding for a local centre providing programs for young offenders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iraq. Canada ahead of U.S. in guiding airstrikes

In helping Kurdish fighters direct airstrikes against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) forces in Iraq, the Canadian military may have put itself out front of even its closest ally.

The U.S. military is not using its special forces operators in front-line positions, an American spokesman confirmed Tuesday. President Barack Obama has been under pressure from Republicans, defence experts and high-profile advisers to loosen restrictions on the roughly 3,100 U.S. troops who are conducting an advise-and-assist mission in Iraq.

Maj. Curtis Kellogg, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command, which oversees the allied coalition, said there has been no change in American policy, which has its soldiers

running training missions on bases. Defence experts argue that the operation needs forward air controllers to pinpoint targets for air attacks.

U.S. commanders have defended the policy of allowing Iraqi and Kurdish fighters to suggest targets, which are then checked out by coalition surveillance drones or aircraft.

Canada's commander of special forces says their work gives the coalition confidence that the targets are legitimate.

When asked on Monday when the Iraqis will be able to direct air attacks on their own, Canada's top operations commander Lt.-Gen. Jonathan Vance said he expects that "down the road, the Iraqi air force and army will be able to bring in, and guide on" airstrikes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Province sets up rat hotline

Alberta Agriculture wants to make it easier to report sightings of rats in the hope of keeping the destructive rodents out of the province.

The province was rat-free for decades, but faced infestations in southeastern Alberta in 2012 and 2014. Norway rats are extremely destructive and can ruin crops and spread disease. The government has set up a toll-free number: 310-RATS (7287). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Audit

Dying with Dignity loses tax status

The federal government is stripping Dying with Dignity Canada of its charitable tax status following a political activity audit by the Canada Revenue Agency.

The organization, a registered charity since 1982, advocates for dignity at the end of life, including providing information about patient rights and education about physician-assisted death. Its status was last confirmed in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexism, alleged drug use at Calgary city hall

Councillor conduct.
Committee hears long list of allegations against councillors for inappropriate behaviour



ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Calgary's mayor says he has received several complaints about members of council getting exceedingly drunk at community events, drinking during council meeting breaks, and even bringing illegal narcotics to city hall, but there's nothing that existing ethics rules can do to stop it.

A veteran female city councillor, meanwhile, says she has witnessed multiple instances of male councillors behaving toward women at city hall in ways that "would be firing offenses" in other workplaces.

Their comments came during a wild committee meeting Tuesday surrounding alcohol consumption and expensing policies that turned into a forum for levelling accusations and airing grievances.

Without naming names, committee members took turns outlining concerning behaviour of their colleagues, past and present, while speaking increasingly specifically about events that have not been fully made public.

"To be frank with you, I have received multiple complaints about members of council who have gotten blitzed at community events," Mayor Naheed Nenshi said at one point.



Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi's Ismaili faith prevents him from drinking, but he says he's received "multiple complaints" about other members of council drinking to excess. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO IN CALGARY

"I've even received reports of illicit substances in the workplace and at this point there's no way to investigate them," the mayor later added. "There's nothing to do about them."

Coun. Druh Farrell, meanwhile, tied the discussion back to allegations revealed late last year surrounding a "systemic issue" of misconduct within the office of the city councillors that led council to agree to "respectful workplace" training following a closed-door meeting.

"It speaks to a tone and that really concerns me," Farrell said Tuesday. "You have mostly men in a position of power and you have women in supporting roles and you add alcohol into that mix."

Farrell, one of two female members on Calgary's 15-per-

son city council, was first elected in 2001 and said she has seen some "wild parties during working hours" in her time at city hall.

"When I've complained in the past, I've been punished — my wrist has been slapped," she said. "We need to join the 21st century."

Coun. Andre Chabot, a 10-year council veteran, said council has become "way more conservative" in the past decade over these types of issues.

"Previous councils were a lot more lax," Chabot said, admitting he last had a drink in his office in December. "You want to look back at the Ralph Klein days? In the Ralph Klein days they used to have wine for supper. In council."

Chabot also said the allegations raised Tuesday are "untrue" and described some of

his colleagues' comments as "irresponsible."

"When council paints itself in a bad light, then the opinion of the general public becomes that council is running amok," Chabot said.

He and Coun. Ward Sutherland voted against recommended new policies that could forbid alcohol consumption in councillors' offices or during work hours.

Chabot said sometimes city hall guests want to have a drink with a councillor, an occurrence he says has only come up three times in his 10 years in council. He says city policy shouldn't "sterilize our offices of that opportunity."

"I think some people would look at it as disrespectful if they're having a drink and you're not willing to have one with them," Chabot said.

Girl who stopped chemotherapy has stroke, dies

An 11-year-old aboriginal girl who made headlines with her choice to abandon chemotherapy in favour of alternative healing methods to treat her cancer has died.

Makayla Sault, a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, located near Brantford, Ont., suffered a stroke on Sunday and died early Monday, her family said.

In a statement issued in the Two Row Times, a weekly newspaper covering indigenous issues, Sault's parents called their daughter's death "a tragic loss."

"Makayla was on her way to wellness, bravely fighting toward holistic well-being after

the harsh side effects that 12 weeks of chemotherapy inflicted on her body," her family said.

"Chemotherapy did irreversible damage to her heart and major organs. This was the cause of the stroke."

An oncologist countered, however, saying a leukemia cell could go into the bone marrow and crowd out normal cells. This could result in a very low platelet count which could result in a bleeding stroke in the head, explained Dr. Jacqueline Halton, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

"If your white cell count is so high, it can make the blood

very sludgy," she said. "You can have a stroke from the blockage of the arteries in the brain."

Halton added that while certain forms of chemotherapy can possibly lead to a stroke, that would happen within days or weeks of receiving chemotherapy, not months after it was stopped.

Sault wrote a letter last year asking to be taken off chemotherapy, saying that the treatment was "killing" her body.

"I have asked my mom and dad to take me off the treatment," she wrote.

"I know that what I have can kill me but I don't want to die in a hospital on chemo, weak and sick."



Makayla Sault, with her family.
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, which had administered chemotherapy to Sault, offered its condolences to her family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

France seeks to lay charges in attacks

Terror. New measures to prevent future attacks include increased intelligence gathering on extremists

French anti-terror prosecutors were seeking to charge four men Tuesday in connection with the attacks in Paris that left 20 people dead. The men would be the first suspects charged in the country's bloodiest terrorist attacks in decades.

The four men remained in court late Tuesday awaiting an anti-terror judge's decision on whether to open preliminary investigations against them.

The possible charges were expected just hours before the French government was to unveil new measures aimed at helping head off future attacks, giving police more power to tap phones, monitor websites and force Internet companies



Flowers are laid Tuesday at the site of the Charlie Hebdo newspaper attack in Paris.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to block online hate messages.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls will present new security measures Wednesday that will include efforts to increase intelligence gathering against jihadis and other radicals, block their activities on the Internet and prevent them from collaborating inside prisons or traveling abroad to fight, President François Hollande said.

The court case and the arrests came as Valls urged his nation to do some soul searching about the country's deep ethnic divisions and declared that fighting hatred, anti-Semitism and racism was a top priority.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the four men in court Tuesday were suspected of providing logistical support to Amedy Coulibaly, one of the terrorists killed by police, and requested they be detained longer.

Coulibaly shot a police-woman to death on the outskirts of Paris and then killed four hostages inside a kosher supermarket before being shot dead by police. It is not clear whether the four suspects, all in their 20s, were involved in plotting the attacks or even aware of Coulibaly's plans.

Five others arrested in the investigation were released without charge, prosecutors said. No one has been charged with direct involvement in the Paris terror attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ransom demanded

ISIL threatens to kill Japanese hostages

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant threatened to kill two Japanese hostages within 72 hours, demanding a \$200 million ransom in a video posted online Tuesday that showed a knife-brandishing masked militant standing over the two kneeling captives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Science

Ancient scroll starts to reveal secrets

Scientists have succeeded in reading parts of an ancient scroll that was buried in a volcanic eruption almost 2,000 years ago, holding out the promise that the world's oldest surviving library may one day reveal its secrets. Previous attempts to peer inside the scrolls failed to yield any readable texts because the ink used in ancient times makes it indistinguishable from the burned papyrus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State of the Union. Obama focuses on taxes, economy

U.S. President Barack Obama said Tuesday it was time for Americans to "turn the page" on years of economic troubles, terrorism and lengthy wars, using his sixth State of the Union speech to outline new tax policies that would hit the wealthiest Americans and give breaks to the middle class.

Obama spoke to a Congress controlled by opposition Republicans, but the policies the president called for suggest that he had no plans to curtail his own agenda in favour of Republican priorities.

Obama's speech proposed increased tax rates for wealthy Americans with much of the new revenue earmarked for measures to benefit low- and middle-income earners who have seen wages stagnate for years. While he made a bold proposal, tax-averse Republicans are unlikely to act on the president's plan.

But Obama used one of his biggest platforms, a speech that was nationally televised to tens of millions of Americans on Tuesday evening, to



U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

highlight the issue of growing economic inequality.

"The verdict is clear," Obama said. "Middle-class economics works. Expanding opportunity works. And these policies will continue to work, as long as politics don't get in the way."

Obama also promoted his recent decision to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba and asked for a new congressional approval and funding for the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

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Teen builds Braille printer with Lego kit

California. Eighth-grader's dream of producing a low-cost machine for the blind gets backing from Intel

A 13-year-old boy, Shubham Banerjee, has launched a company to develop low-cost machines to print Braille, the tactile writing system for the visually impaired.

The California eighth-grader built a Braille printer with a Lego robotics kit as a school science fair project last year. Shocked to learn Braille printers cost at least \$2,000 US — too expensive for most blind readers — Banerjee started Braigo Labs last summer with an initial \$35,000 US investment from his dad, an engineer at Intel Corp.

Shubham used the money

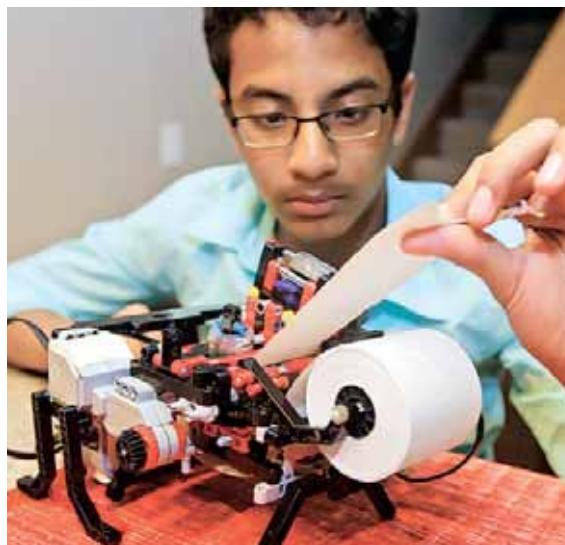
to build a more sophisticated version of his Lego-based printer using an off-the-shelf desktop printer and a newly released Intel computer chip.

Intel executives were so impressed with the printer that in November they invested an undisclosed sum in his startup. Intel officials believe he's the youngest entrepreneur to receive venture capital money.

Braigo Labs is using the money to hire professional engineers and advisers to help design and build Braille printers based on Shubham's ideas. The company aims to have a prototype ready for blind organizations to test this summer and have a Braigo printer on the market later this year.

Shubham is too young to be CEO of his own company, so his mother, Malini, has taken the job, though she admits she wasn't too supportive when he started the project.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Shubham Banerjee, 13, launched a company to develop a low-cost Braille printer based on a prototype he built with his Lego robotics kit for a school science fair project. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airlines

Alitalia plans new routes, hubs after Etihad takeover

Alitalia's new chairman Luca Cordero di Montezemolo aims to make the airline profitable in 2017 following its takeover by U.A.E.-based Etihad Airways.

Alitalia's new strategy envisions new routes from Rome to Dusseldorf, San Francisco, Beijing, Santiago, Chile, among other cities, and extra flights to New York, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro and Abu Dhabi, Etihad's hub.

The new strategy focuses on three Italian hubs: Milan's Malpensa and Linate airports and Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking

U.S. retailers lose court battle over debit card fees

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a challenge from retailers who claim the U.S. Federal Reserve allows banks to charge businesses too much for handling debit card transactions.

The justices let stand a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the Fed's cap of about 24 cents per transaction on so-called "swipe fees" that merchants pay to banks every time a customer uses a debit card to make a payment.

Before the cap was imposed, fees averaged 44 cents per swipe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Financial services

Walmart will cash tax refunds at its U.S. stores

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is launching a service allowing customers in the U.S. to pick up their tax refunds in cash at its Walmart stores.

It says the process will take the same time as if customers were to file their returns electronically, then get direct deposit, which could take just a week. The service could help people without bank accounts avoid high check-cashing fees.

The stores are teaming up with more than 25,000 tax-preparation locations. Walmart doesn't charge a fee for the cash pickup.

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VOICES

A COOL POPE IS STILL A POPE

With his off-script common-sense pronouncements based on love and kindness, the latest leader of the Catholic church has been handing some excellent smackdowns to the pious powers that be. But when he tells his flock they don't need to be like rabbits, but shouldn't use birth control, what's an agnostic supposed to do but poke fun?



PAUL SULLIVAN
readers@metronews.ca

The latest advice from Pope Francis to the Catholic flock: don't be like rabbits. Presumably he's not referring to having big ears and a cute fluffy tail.

Before I go any further, I should make it clear that Pope Francis is the best pope ever, even better than Pope John XXIII and the unfortunate 33-day pope, John Paul I, who showed brief promise.

Francis, who named himself after the best saint ever, has tightened the Roman collar around more than one powerful Vatican neck with his off-script common-sense pronouncements based on love and kindness.

It was reported that the Pope told a little boy who just lost his dog that all dogs go to heaven. Turns out he didn't really say that, but he didn't rush to issue any denials, either. Just helped pick up the theologians who fainted when they heard the report.

But, hey, he's still the pope, and there's a line the pope can never cross: birth control.

Apparently using any



Pope Francis's latest headline-grabbing remarks: "Some people think that — excuse my expression here — in order to be good Catholics we have to be like rabbits. No. Parenthood is about being responsible. This is clear." METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

technology other than restraint remains at the top of the list of Catholic no-nos — the technical term is sins — as the Pope re-affirmed on

the way home from his visit to the Philippines.

Clearly, the shoes of the fishermen weren't quite touching the ground as II

Papa told reporters that people should practise "responsible parenting," as in, "Not tonight, dear, we already have 11 kids."

You'd think that responsible parenting would include tactical use of condoms, birth-control pills, etc., anything that would

head off the rush of sperm swimming like the dickens to increase the world's population — oblivious as sperm are to the requirement to feed, clothe and house all those babies once they arrive.

Of course this new doctrine of "responsible parenting" is a real departure from the bad old days, when God told good Catholics to breed like rabbits ... and eat fish sticks on Friday. In today's church, says Francis, there's no need to breed like a bunny. But he's a little vague on the appropriate animal role model going forward. Maybe salmon, which have sex every four years.

OK, so I'm not infallible.

Poor Francis is wrapped in a dogmatic dilemma: bringing birth control to the party puts a host of horny Catholics on the slippery slope. It means that the option exists to have sex for purposes other than procreation (as if, snort!).

But the church is apparently willing to go down fighting on this one, even if it means confounding the faithful and providing the faithless with another reason to engage in unholy jest.

Forget gyms; what we need are good old-fashioned indoor parks



SEAN MCKIBBIN
readers@metronews.ca

Target's departure is going to leave some very large commercial spaces empty, with various mega-corporations jostling to fill the space.

Included on that list is fitness giant Goodlife, which announced this week that it is interested in taking over the lease. As a mildly overweight 40-something dude with two kids, this got me thinking.

With some of these spaces

hovering at around 100,000 square feet, the gym chain could certainly fill these spaces with fun things like pools and saunas — but what I'm really thinking is an indoor park.

In other words, a place where my kids could do what they like to do when they get into a Target or other open area in the winter time: run like the dickens.

I don't mean a fitness club. A park. With plants. A few teeter totters, maybe some hoops, some benches.

Fake grass, real grass, I

Y'know, like a park park

Fake grass, real grass, I don't know — but some place where I don't have to worry about the kids giving some poor security guard the unpleasant task of being the heavy and telling them to not run around.

don't know — but some place where I don't have to worry about the kids giving some poor security guard the unpleasant task of being the heavy and telling them to not run around.

In the '50s, people thought about building Iglooluit under a

taking a canoe to the park seems like a better option than galoshes.

Ottawa, where I live, has some great, large inflatable-dome facilities that even let people go in for walking sessions, but nothing unorganized.

Kids and adults alike need a place to just be themselves.

Maybe there could be a play structure, but not one of those nutty giant hamster mazes. My kids love going to those places and doing laser tag or the trampoline park. Those places are all great but

they aren't what I'm talking about.

When they're little, you have to kind of run after them. Mildly overweight, 40-something dudes do not belong in giant hamster mazes.

Maybe I should get a Good-life membership.

But I still want that indoor park.

Sean McKibbin is the managing editor of Metro Ottawa. He adores his children, who are actually very well behaved but exceptionally fast runners.

How to totally not talk about dating Taylor Swift

Matt Healy, ostensibly the singer of the band The 1975, is becoming much better known as the guy who insists he's not dating Taylor Swift, despite photos of the pair together and his regular comments during interviews about meeting her. But God, guys, why do you keep bringing it up? He totally doesn't want to talk about it. Except he does: It's "all bloody fake. It's a farce," Healy insists during a recent radio interview.

"We met each other, we exchanged numbers in the same way that a lot of people in this world kind of do, and we spoke occasionally. She's the biggest pop star in the world and I'm in Australia. There's no relationship of anything



Taylor Swift

happening. It's just funny how people really, really buy into that."

That's all fine and good, but why do you have to bag on Australia like that? What's wrong with Australia?

Moore was just hating on snipers in general, alright?

Michael Moore is peeved at the press for turning his casual discussion of snipers and why they're terrible into an attack on box office titan American Sniper. The nerve of some people, right?

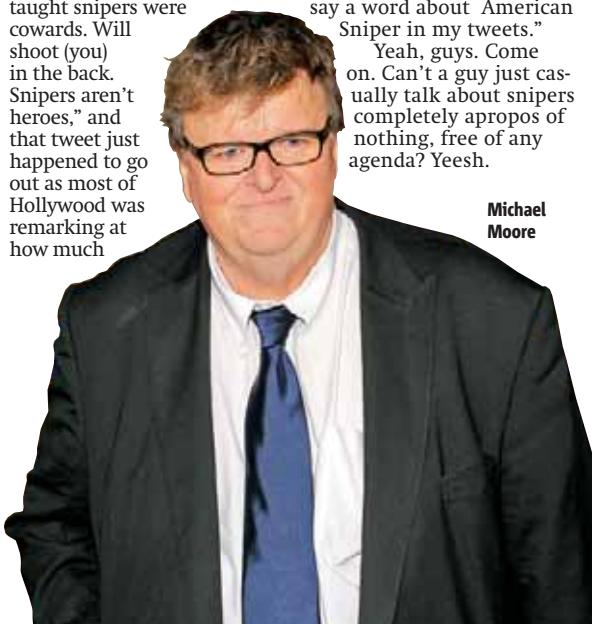
Moore initially tweeted, "My uncle (was) killed by (a) sniper in WWII. We were taught snipers were cowards. Will shoot (you) in the back. Snipers aren't heroes," and that tweet just happened to go out as most of Hollywood was remarking at how much

money Clint Eastwood's new movie was making. But that does not mean the two are related, according to Moore.

"Deadline Hollywood and the Hollywood Reporter turned that into stories about how I don't like Clint Eastwood's new film, American Sniper. I didn't say a word about American Sniper in my tweets."

Yeah, guys. Come on. Can't a guy just casually talk about snipers completely apropos of nothing, free of any agenda? Yeesh.

Michael Moore



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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Johnny is not with the band

Attention actors who try to launch music careers: Stop it. You're making Johnny Depp sick. "That whole idea for me is a sickening thing, it's always just made me sick," Depp said while promoting Mortdecai in Berlin. "I hate the idea, 'Come see me play guitar because you've seen me in 12 movies.' It shouldn't be. You want the people who are listening to the

music to only be interested in the music." Firm but fair.

So, according to Depp's strict, Draconian take on how music should be appreciated, which of his fellow movie stars are in violation? Jared Leto certainly jumps to mind, as does Scarlett Johansson — hey, remember her album of Tom Waits covers? Yeah, no. Oh, and Russell Crowe has a band.

And doesn't his Mortdecai co-star Gwyneth Paltrow like to sing, too? Man, they're all going to have some explaining to do when they see Depp at the next Millionaire Movie Stars Rotary Club meeting.

But at least some good comes from all of this, as Depp insists, "You won't be hearing The Johnny Depp Band. That won't ever exist."

Emphatically not-gay Ansel is back with his high-school sweetie

Apparently when The Fault in Our Stars star Ansel Elgort tweeted that he likes girls — a lot — he really meant just one girl in particular, as Elgort has reportedly reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Violetta Komyshan, four months after they initially called it quits, according to Us Weekly. "They just missed each other. He didn't really see anyone

else seriously while they were split," a source says.

That's not hard to believe, given Elgort's own statements on fame and success in a recent GQ interview: "What's changed is, 'Oh, you can go to this restaurant' or, 'You can go to this nightclub,' but I'm not really interested in that," he said. "I don't really care that some trashy girl, like, now all of the sudden wants to f— me.

That's not really that interesting to me." Charming lad, that one. But anyway, mazel tov to the reunited couple.

Ansel Elgort



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SCENE

On Fox drama Empire, Cookie rules the roost

New series. At the heart of show about a hip-hop dynasty is a glamorous, fiercely astute businesswoman

Taraji P. Henson is driving down an L.A. street, chatting on her cellphone, when a billboard catches her eye.

"Hi, me! Hiiii!" she says, smiling at her latest on-screen incarnation: glamorous ex-con Cookie in Empire (which airs Wednesdays on OMNI 2, OMNI AB, OMNI BC and on Fox).

Draped in fabulous furs and drenched in attitude, Henson's Cookie is the heart of the Fox drama, a fiercely devoted mother and astute businesswoman who's fearless when it comes to getting what she wants. Her sometimes-reluctant partner is Lucious Lyon (Terrence Howard), a music mogul deciding which of their three sons should run the family's entertainment empire.

Henson has seen her face



Cookie Lyon, right, played by Taraji P. Henson, visits her son Jamal (Jussie Smollett, centre) and his partner Mike in the premiere episode of Empire. CHUCK HODES/FOX

on billboards before, with dozens of film credits (including 2008's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, for which she earned a supporting actress Oscar nod) and popular

TV series such as *Person of Interest* to her name. "Sometimes I forget, you know what I mean?" she says. "I just go on about my day, and look up and go, 'That's right, I do have

a TV show coming out!'"

The 44-year-old actress pulled over to talk with The Associated Press about the new show and the empire that is Taraji P. Henson.

Who is Cookie?
She is a hero. I mean, she is the truth. She is strong. She's family first. She's a lot of things. She doesn't compromise at all — never herself, and never her truth. That's what I love about her ... She says things that I might not have the guts to say. I love the way she dresses. I love how much she cares about her sons.

How is it working with Terrence Howard again, your old pal from *Hustle & Flow*?

I just know that I really like working with Terrence. I trust him. And for me as an artist — acting, you really have to be uninhibited. You cannot have any hang-ups.

Or if you do, they can't breathe and live through these characters, because their hang-ups aren't your hang-ups. So for me in order to fully explore characters without throwing Taraji in the mix, I have to feel safe ... And with Terrence, I'm so safe with him, I can try anything... We're friends. We've known each other, so it really works for Cookie and Lucious.

When they came to me with the project, I said it has to be Terrence. When I cracked open the script, I saw no one but Terrence.

What's most challenging to you as an actress right now?

Challenging is getting what I think I deserve to be paid. (It's) challenging to get the projects I want done or greenlit. I'm still having to prove I'm bankable. But I think it's getting better!

I'm not one to wallow in the muck and say how bad. I don't harp on how bad things are... My thing is to prove each and every time I'm on the screen — whether it's TV, whether it's film, whether it's the stage — Taraji is going to deliver. So when I do get that moment — 'cause it's coming, I work too hard — when I do get that moment, that perfect movie comes along and some studio is going to say, 'I believe in her.' Not me and a man. Not me and another guy, no. Taraji P. Henson is going to open this film. Then I know that I'm doing my job.

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Homophobia

Show tackles hostility toward gays in black community

The creator of Fox's prime-time soap Empire said he wants to "blow the lid off homophobia" in the African-American community with a depiction of the show's lead character's hostile relationship with his gay son.

Lee Daniels, who was also behind the movies Lee

Daniels' *The Butler* and *Precious*, said that his own father's hostility toward gays frightened him and he knows the same attitudes are being passed on from one generation to another in households around the world. "What we're trying to



do is to give people the opportunity to see that what they're doing is painful," Daniels said. Empire is the story of a strong-willed music family whose patriarch, Lucious Lyon, is portrayed by Terrence Howard. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lee Daniels
GETTY IMAGES



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HONEYMOON

New Zealand is for lovers

Accommodations.

Here are some dreamy hideouts if you're looking to hole up a world away with your partner

KATHY
ULLYOTT
[scene@metronews.ca](#)

Whether you and your beloved are honeymooning for the first or the 15th time, these spectacular New Zealand romantic retreats are perfect for your stay on the island of "the long white cloud."

Hotel DeBrett, Auckland [hoteldebrett.com](#)

With its thick bespoke, 100 per-cent-New-Zealand-wool carpeting, eclectic mix of Art Deco and mid-century furnishings and meticulous attention to comfort, the Hotel DeBrett is exactly what owner Michelle Deery designed it to be: a luxurious, stylish home base in the dramatic, cosmopolitan business capital of New Zealand. Right downtown on Auckland's High Street, the Hotel DeBrett features such luxuries as hand-screen-printed bed throws, spa bath and shower and salon-quality hair dryers. Its on-site restaurant, DeBrett's Kitchen, has won a wall full of awards, including Metro 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell [theduke.co.nz](#)

The Duke proudly boasts that it has been "refreshing rascals and reprobates since 1827," when the Bay of Islands town of Russell was a raucous whaling port notorious for its, um, nightlife. Now, the once-named



Copthorne Hotel & Resort is within cycling distance of Maori sacred sites like Waipoua Forest.

"hell-hole of the Pacific" is a charming retreat, and Riki Kinnaird and three associates have transformed the old Duke into its jewel. In addition to 25 rooms, all with spectacularly romantic views of the Bay of Islands, The Duke's restaurant claims "the freshest seafood in New Zealand" and its menu is a sampler of kiwi delicacies: Wai-kare Inlet oysters, green-lipped mussels, forest mushrooms, Matakana blue cheese and wild Raukumara venison.

The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay [capekidnappers.com](#)

You could be forgiven for wanting to spend your entire honeymoon vacation at this five-star luxury lodge hotel. A Relais & Chateau property on 6,000 secluded acres of working farm, it offers individual lodge accommodation with incredible views of storied Cape Kidnappers — one of Captain Cook's original New Zealand

landings. In addition to an infinity pool, par-71 golf course, an award-winning restaurant and luxury spa, you can enjoy cycling and trout fishing. However, The Farm is also a sanctuary for the famed kiwi, and a relationship between the hotel and New Zealand Environmental Services allows you to hike out on a Kiwi Discovery Walk with a conservationist to find the country's secretive emblem. You can also visit the gannet colony on Black Reef, or pack a picnic to take on any one of seven walking/cycling trails that wander through the gorges, woods and seashores of the property.

The Spire, Queenstown [thespirehotel.com](#)

Owners (and sisters) Amelia and Lucy Gain purchased the elegant, 10-room Spire just over three years ago, and the hotel is a testament to their attention to pampering detail. Guests are greeted with welcoming

bubbly, fruit and chocolate (for two, natch); sinuous Danish recliners invite relaxation before the fireplace; L'Occitane toiletries accent a spa-style bath or shower. While right downtown in bustling Queenstown, the rooms are soothing and quiet, with views overlooking the 82-year-old St. Peter's Anglican Church, from which the hotel draws its name.

Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Hokianga millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornehokianga

According to legend, Kupe, the ancestor and founder of the Maori on New Zealand, landed here in Hokianga Harbour some 1,000 years ago, calling the protected inlet home. Right on the harbor, and just cycling-distance away from Maori sacred sites such as Waipoua Forest is the Copthorne Hotel and Resort, a 108-year-old boutique inn perfect for weddings, receptions and honeymoons. Owner Pip Lloyd says

If you go...

It's a long flight to the Antipodes (13 hours from Vancouver; 18 from Toronto), so fly as comfortably as you can. There are good reasons why Air New Zealand wins bundles of awards worldwide every year from both airlines' and travellers' associations; not least among them, their hilarious safety videos. (Right now, you can enjoy "An Unexpected Briefing" featuring a cast of hobbits, dwarves, elves and Peter Jackson himself.) You might even win your trip for free: go to [airnewzealand.com](#) and enter before Jan. 31, 2015 for a chance to win two economy class tickets.

Visit [metronews.ca](#) to find out about three more honeymoon destinations in New Zealand.



many couples choose to wed at the spectacular grounds overlooking the Tasman Sea.

Wai Ora Lakeside Spa Resort, Rotorua [waioraresort.co.nz](#)

The mineral-rich hot springs of Rotorua have been drawing health-conscious tourists to New Zealand since the mid-1800s. The Wai Ora (the name means "healing waters") is not just an ideal base from which to explore this history-rich area, but to relax and indulge in international-award-winning spa facilities and treatments. The on-site Mokoia Restaurant offers Pacific Rim infusion cuisine, outstanding service and panoramic views of Lake Rotorua.

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Orlando: Not just Mickey Mouse

More than theme parks. Dining, shopping, and shows make this city worth a visit

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Orlando conjures up images of theme parks, but there is more to this city than roller-coasters and Mickey Mouse. Of course, visitors can expect a few new roller-coasters, too.

"Orlando really works for repeat visitors," said Mark Jaronski, vice-president of global communications with Visit Orlando. "If you're a historic city or a natural wonder, visitors don't want you to change. The beauty of Orlando is that (the city) will constantly change and people come back for that."

Canadians escaping the cold can get their

"sun fix," but still experience something new, he said.

While theme parks are constantly reinventing themselves, they now offer a range of private, behind-the-scenes experiences for small groups, such as swimming with dolphins at SeaWorld or going on a backstage tour of the savannah at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

But theme parks aren't just for kids. "Believe it or not, when you look at our total visitor mix, there are more people who visit without children than with children," Jaronski said.

But these days, there is also a lot to experience outside of Orlando's theme parks.

"Dining wasn't one of those thoughts that came immediately to mind

Upcoming in Orlando

- Skyplex is bringing the world's tallest roller-coaster to Orlando in 2016.
- Disney World is building an Avatar-inspired land set, slated to open in 2017, complete with floating mountains and bioluminescent rainforests.
- I-Drive 360 is an entertainment complex centred around a giant observation wheel, the Orlando Eye, opening this spring.

when you thought of Orlando," Jaronski said.

But the city is now seeing the rise of celebrity chefs and locally-sourced gourmet fare.

Scratch in Winter Park, for example, serves up modern American tapas with lo-



Take a ride on the Taumata Racer at Aquatica Orlando. CONTRIBUTED



The Everglades provide the perfect backdrop for a wild adventure into some wetlands. CONTRIBUTED

cal, seasonal ingredients, while The Smiling Bison in the Milk District offers a craft beer menu and farm-focused dining.

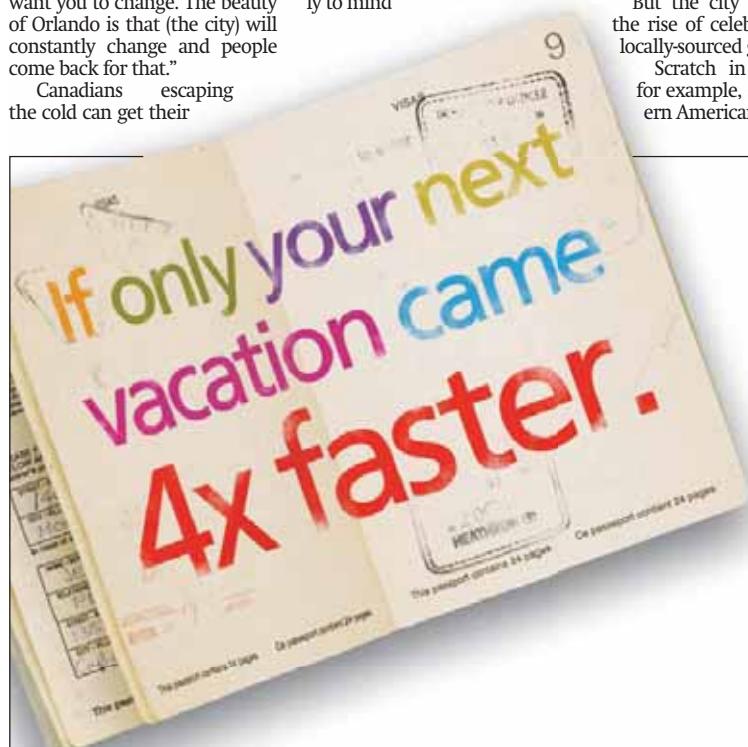
And the Aragon Marketplace recently opened for business — Florida's largest indoor artisan marketplace with more

than 160 studio spaces featuring one-of-a-kind boutiques and handcrafted items.

Even downtown Orlando is getting a facelift. The downtown core recently saw the opening of the state-of-the-art Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts,

the new home for Broadway productions and the Orlando Ballet.

Jaronski also recommends Orlando's lesser-known neighbourhoods and districts, such as Winter Park, with its winding brick streets, boutiques, and outdoor cafés.



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Bucket list



Diving in Cozumel

Mainland Mexico is terrific, but the island of Cozumel just south of Cancun is off-the-dial beautiful and has regained its footing since hurricane Wilma crashed through in 2005. Quiet and unhurried, it is considered one of the best places in the world to scuba dive, with more than 30 incredible sites on the west coast and a smaller dive scene on the east. Dressel Divers, which operates from the Iberostar Cozumel dock, even takes short breaks back on land between tanks. The all-inclusive resorts are quiet and good value. Leave your resort for the day and try the beach clubs around the island, such as Beachclub Buccanos Bar & Grill and Money Bar Beach Club.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

'Cross the country there's plenty of places to ski

Winter sport. No matter where you live in Canada, it's possible to strap in for a great cold weather workout

It's definitely not the most accessible cross-country ski destination for most Canadians, but Labrador West in Newfoundland offers one of the best areas for winter sports in Atlantic Canada, according to the Menihik Nordic Ski Club, host of the 40th annual Great Labrador Loppet.

The March 28 loppet, for skiers and snowshoers of all ages, features 10-, 28- and 50-kilometre events.

It kicks off in Fermont, Que., 570 kilometres north of Baie-Comeau, and finishes in Labrador City, N.L.

The trail passes through beautiful landscape and is groomed for classic and free techniques, with refreshment stations along the way, the club says.



Cross-country skiing is one of the most relaxing ways to enjoy winter. ISTOCK

Menihik defines a loppet as a type of "great gathering" for skiers, adding that "enormous amounts of food

and drink are consumed during the event."

There's no shortage of great trails to hit to cross-

country ski in Canada, and what better time to do it than now, in the depths of winter? THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hit the trails

Looking for some good cross-country alternatives this winter? According to a Cottage Life magazine article, these are the best regions for cross-country skiing in Canada:

- Whistler and Callaghan Country, B.C.
- Okanagan Valley, B.C.
- Banff and Lake Louise, Alta.
- Northern Saskatchewan
- Algonquin Park, Ont.
- Simcoe County, Ont.
- Gatineau, Que.
- Long Range Mountains, N.L.

For more information visit menihknordicski.ca

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Spaghetti moonlights as a savoury pie

Dinner. You lose the traditional pastry shell but still bake this dish and slice it up for a new take on pasta



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This spaghetti pie is a long time favourite for my family because it packs a punch when it comes to flavour and meat appeal.

Use your favourite spaghetti but be sure to cook it al dente, which translated means "to the tooth."

It should still be slightly firm with a bit of a bite to it, so that means you'll have to be sure to taste your pasta while its cooking to note the change in texture.

You might find that you like your pasta a little more al dente than you have been making it.

By cooking pasta correctly you will enjoy the dish and also ensure a perfect flavour and texture each time.

Instead of the traditional spaghetti and meat sauce piled high on a plate, this dish is served up like a pie!

Just bake the tasty mixture in a pie plate then serve it to your family in wedges with a crisp green salad for a new twist.

Directions

1. In large saucepan cook



This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

turkey for about 5 minutes or until no longer pink. Drain in sieve to remove fat. Return saucepan to medium heat with oil and cook onion,

garlic and Italian seasoning; stirring for about 2 minutes or until onion is softened. Return turkey to saucepan and add broccoli and tomato

sauce; bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 5 minutes. Set aside.

2. In another saucepan, melt

margarine over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth. Whisk in milk and cook, whisking for about 5 minutes or until starting to

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes

Ingredients

- 8 oz (250 g) extra lean ground turkey
- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Italian herb seasoning
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped broccoli
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) pasta sauce
- 2 tsp (10 ml) butter or soft non hydrogenated margarine
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) skim milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) 1% cottage cheese
- 6 oz (175 g) cooked spaghetti (about 3 cups/750 ml)

thicken and bubble. Whisk in cottage cheese and remove from heat.

3. Add al dente spaghetti to turkey mixture and stir in 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the cheese sauce. Pour into 10 inch (25 cm) deep dish pie plate; pressing down to flatten. Spread remaining cheese sauce over top and bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 20 minutes or until bubbly. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for about 2 minutes or until golden on top, if desired. Let cool slightly before cutting into wedges to serve.

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How to stand out in an interview situation

Career. Make yourself memorable using these one-on-one tips

VERONICA YAO
TalentEgg.ca

One of the toughest parts of the job hunt is making it through the written application stage. While a résumé is excellent for communicating your skills and accomplishments, it's not a great tool for conveying your personality.

As soon as you're called in for an interview, you go from being words on a page to a living, breathing human being.

Now the ball is in your court — and the last thing you want to do is be forgettable. So here are some tips on how to make your first impressions count with a potential employer.

Wear something memorable

No, don't break out your powder-blue tuxedo. But wearing an appropriate, but memorable accessory can help you stand out among other applicants.

For instance, if you're wearing a suit, you could wear a bow tie, or a coloured pocket square.

If you decide to wear a dress or skirt, you could accessorize with some brightly coloured jewelry.

Many interviewees tend to play it safe by sticking



Catching their eye with a little pop of colour is an easy but effective way of keeping you on their mind. iSTOCK

with classic neutral colours — but even something small to make your outfit "pop" can help you do the same in an interviewer's mind.

Furthermore, if your interviewer happens to like what you're wearing, it could spark an interesting conversation that they're not going to have with other candidates.

Take an interest in them as a person

Yes, interviewers are people too. And when they finish their day at five o'clock, they go back to their lives of being a parent, athlete, artist, volunteer — you name it.

People, for the most part, like talking about themselves. If you ask them about

their day, and seem genuinely interested, they're usually happy to share.

So while there will be time for the spotlight to be on you, remember to take some time before and after to make smalltalk.

If you're not sure where to begin, see if they have a LinkedIn profile.

Take a look at their interests and previous experiences. Chances are, you'll find something you can bring up casually and chat about. And if you do it well, you will very likely leave a positive impression on your

interviewer.

Be passionate and genuine

There's nothing more invigorating than watching someone who is passionate about what they do. It's important to show why you love what you do, and the energy that you'll bring to the company.

This doesn't mean that you eat, sleep, and breathe maintenance work 24 hours a day, or you'll work overtime because you absolutely love working with spreadsheets. Instead, your passion should stem from the satisfaction you get as a result of

Take notes

Taking notes tells your interviewer that you're listening.

- But more importantly, it says that you are invested in the information they're giving you, and you're open to learning new things. Even if a candidate has all the experience needed for the job, if they're not willing to learn, they're of little use to the employer.
- Bring along a notebook or a tablet to take your notes. If it has a colourful or eye-catching cover — bonus. Again, like a memorable accessory, this is another way you can start a conversation with your employer.
- One last point — don't be afraid to ask them to repeat something. Your note-taking skills are not being judged, but your attitude is.

the job — or even aspects of the job.

An applicant might not love stocking shelves in retail, but they might get an immense sense of satisfaction from coming up with organizational plans and executing them.

You might even link your work ethic to a hobby in your life. If you are a fan of sports, talk about how that passion links to different facets in your life, including work.

Or if you're a musician, talk about skills you've gained through teamwork and collaboration.

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LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro in New York City

Not many college students can say that they were paid to talk about beer throughout post-secondary school, but that's exactly what Liz Wessel did while she attended the University of Pennsylvania.

"I was the Anheuser-Busch rep on campus," Wessel explains. "I considered my job a supplement to my education."

It was during her time at Penn that Wessel and classmate J.J. Fliegelman decided to create a site exclusively geared toward students looking for jobs as campus reps. After graduation, the pair decided to create a firm that would connect students with such companies. Wessel was working in

India for Google when she and Fliegelman decided to launch their new company Campus Job — which connects companies with interested student workers. In addition to listings for more conventional college students positions at coffee shops, it also recruits for larger companies as well. Her work experience as a campus rep provided much of the inspiration behind the website, she says.

"I still had no idea what I wanted to do [while I was in college]," recalls Wessel, a political science major.

"It was actually my part-time job that led me to realize 'Wow, I like marketing.'"

We talked to Wessel about how students can build their skills off-campus.

Become a better public speaker

"For my job I had to visit fraternities and sororities to talk about products and also promote the engineering jobs at Anheuser-Busch. I had never gone in front

of hundreds of peers to do something like that," says Wessel.

Many of the jobs listed on the site require employees to be comfortable speaking in front of large groups, she notes.

Explore new fields

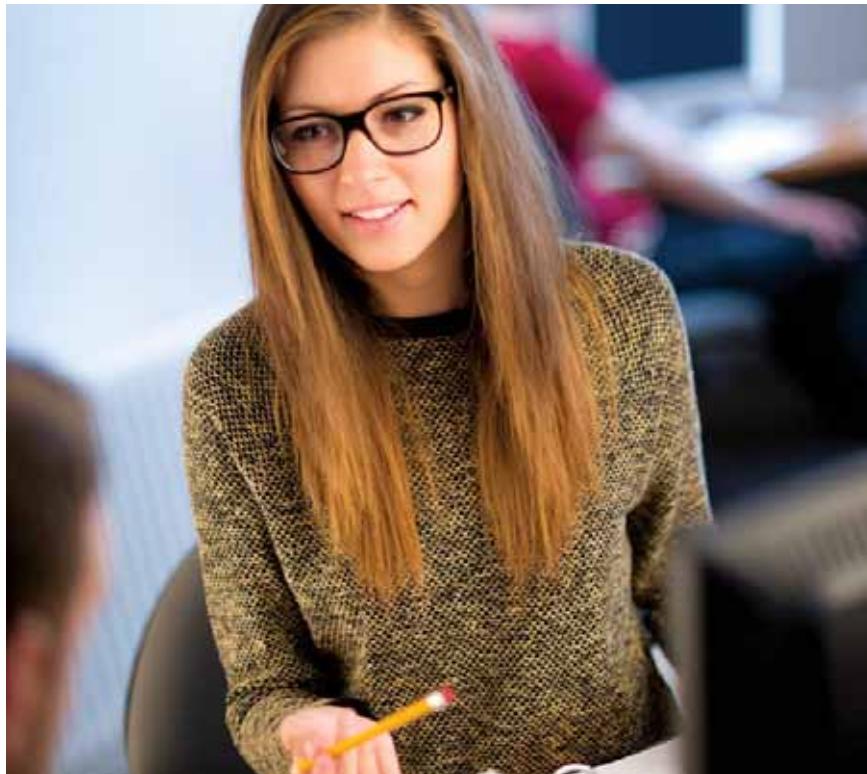
Wessel advises students use their part-time positions to gain skills outside their courses of study.

"We did an analysis of recent grads and the majority of students said their majors had nothing to do with their jobs," she notes.

"We talked to a pre-med student who wanted to look for a job in marketing because they thought, 'Let me try out a new field. Let me gain new skills.'"

Develop connections

"A lot of students also don't know that companies like Microsoft have campus reps...." says Wessel. "Also, typically if an employer wants to hire a student, they want to give them feedback, so it's a chance to grow and build relationships."



Sometimes it's helpful to take time away from your studies, even if it means heading to a workplace. ISTOCK

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Oilers do unexpected and win in Washington

NHL Purcell scores shootout winner as Edmonton end Caps' 7-game home win streak

During a season in which they've already gone through two coaches and won fewer games than any team in the league, the Edmonton Oilers entered the all-star break with a victory to savour.

Teddy Purcell scored the decisive goal in a shootout after Edmonton rallied from a two-goal deficit late in regulation, and the Oilers defeated Washington 5-4 Tuesday night to end the Capitals' seven-game home winning streak.

Purcell beat goalie Braden Holtby in the fourth round of the shootout after Edmonton's Viktor Fasth stopped Eric Fehr.

The victory was the 12th in 47 games for Edmonton and only the fourth on the road. After defeating Florida in a shootout on Saturday, the Oilers have a week to sit on their two-game winning streak.

"We can definitely take some positives from this," coach Todd Nelson said. "It was a good character win. The guys stuck with it."

The Capitals, on the other hand, enter the break mired in a three-game skid after blowing a late lead at home against a team that has endured losing streaks of seven and nine games.

"I said to the guys, 'Maybe we don't make the playoffs,'" coach Barry Trotz said. "There are some good teams out there."

Washington has earned at



Oilers right-winger Teddy Purcell scores the game-winning goal on Capitals goalie Braden Holtby on Tuesday night in Washington, D.C. ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Tuesday

5	4
Oilers	Capitals

- The Oilers are moving to Saskatoon next season but only for one night.
- The team announced Tuesday they would be playing a pre-season game against the

least a point in 19 of its past 22 games.

Minnesota Wild on Saturday Sept. 26.

- The game will take place at the SaskTel centre home of the Saskatoon Blades. Oilers general manager Craig MacTavish said it would be great to take the team to some of its most loyal fans.
- "We know we have a lot of Oiler fans in Saskatchewan and are excited to be back in Saskatoon," he said. METRO

Alex Ovechkin scored twice in the opening 14 minutes for

the Capitals, who held leads of 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2 before the Oilers made one final push during the final five minutes of regulation.

Purcell scored at 15:49 to make it 4-3, and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins tied it with a wrist shot at 18:53 after Fasth vacated the net for an extra skater.

Derek Roy and Nikita Nikitin also scored in regulation for Edmonton.

"There were a couple of times in the second (period) that I think we were thinking that there's no chance we should even be in this game," Purcell said. "We hung around and found a way."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Defensive boss Hall switches sides in rivalry

Facing a diminished role with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Richie Hall took on the challenge of becoming the Winnipeg Blue Bombers defensive co-ordinator.

Hall served as Saskatchewan's defensive co-ordinator the last four seasons. Saskatchewan's defence allowed the fewest touchdowns in the CFL while recording the most interceptions to anchor the Riders' Grey Cup run in 2013.

But after Saskatchewan posted a 10-8 record last season, head coach Corey Chamblin said in December that Hall wouldn't continue as the Riders' defensive co-ordinator.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Life event

Great One is now a Grandpa

Wayne Gretzky is a grandfather.

Paulina Gretzky, the daughter of the hockey legend, and her fiancé Dustin Johnson said in a statement through his management company that their son was born Monday morning.

Johnson, an eight-time PGA Tour winner, said mother and baby were healthy, resting and in great spirits. They did not immediately say what they named him.

Johnson has not played the last six months because of what he called "personal issues" that required professional help.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pats crushing the competition

NFL. New England's high-octane offence looks to topple Seattle's top-ranked defence in the Super Bowl

Once Tom Brady gets their offence rolling, the New England Patriots are tough to stop.

Some of the NFL's top teams — Denver, Detroit, Cincinnati and Indianapolis — all lost to the AFC champions by at least 22 points.

Now the Patriots are in the Super Bowl against the defending champion Seattle Seahawks, whose four losses were by a total of 22 points.

"This is an incredible defensive unit," Patriots offensive co-ordinator Josh McDaniels said. "They can take the ball away from you. They can get to the quarterback. They can stop the run. It will be an incredible challenge."

The Seahawks, with the NFL's best defence, could stage their second straight Super

Scandal

The New England Patriots are brushing off and even finding humour in questions about whether they used under-inflated footballs in the game that put them in the Super Bowl.

- Tight end Rob Gronkowski tweeted a photo of himself spiking the ball with the words: "WARNING GRONK MAY CAUSE DEFLATION."
- The NFL's investigation is ongoing.

Bowl blowout, having beaten the Broncos 43-8 last year.

Pretty close to the Patriots' 45-7 pasting of the Colts in last Sunday's AFC title game.

"It feels great to impose your will on a team," wide receiver Brandon LaFell said in a clubhouse filled with smiles, "and that's what we did all night."

The route to the Super

Bowl on Feb. 1 takes the Patriots to Glendale, Ariz., where they'll try for their fourth NFL title and first in 10 years.

"The coaches prepare us for whatever we need to get the win," said fullback James Develin.

Even if it involves him catching a one-yard touchdown pass, his 11th reception in 37 NFL games, as he did Sunday.

Or offensive tackle Nate Solder being eligible in that game to catch a 16-yard scoring pass, the first reception in his four seasons.

Or having backup offensive lineman Cameron Fleming line up as an eligible receiver nearly 30 times against Indianapolis.

"I certainly think it's been a staple of our team that when we need a play, different guys have stepped up all year long and we've been able to produce points to win games," said special teams captain Matthew Slater. "It's not how you get those points. It's just having them."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Patriots' Nate Solder scores against Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson during the AFC championship game on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. The Pats won in a blowout — nothing new to the team. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Thunder rise above .500 mark

Russell Westbrook scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Kevin Durant added 19 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder moved over the .500 mark for the first time this season with a 94-86 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

The Thunder have won 18 of their past 26 games.

Dwyane Wade scored 18 points and Chris Bosh added 16 for Miami.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Christine Sinclair and Team Canada will take on China on June 6 in their first match of the Women's World Cup. GETTY IMAGES FILE

World Cup. Ticket prices will vary across Canada

From a preliminary-round doubleheader for as low as \$20 to a \$165 premium ticket for the final, there is no shortage of ticket options for the Women's World Cup.

While ticket packages went on sale in September, organizers released Tuesday the pricing structure for individual tickets in six Canadian cities this summer.

Individual tickets go on sale worldwide at noon ET Feb. 26, 100 days before the opening match of the 24-team tournament. Visa holders can take advantage of a pre-sale starting Feb. 6.

Tickets will be available on the Internet (see www.fifa.com/canada2015 for more information).

By the numbers

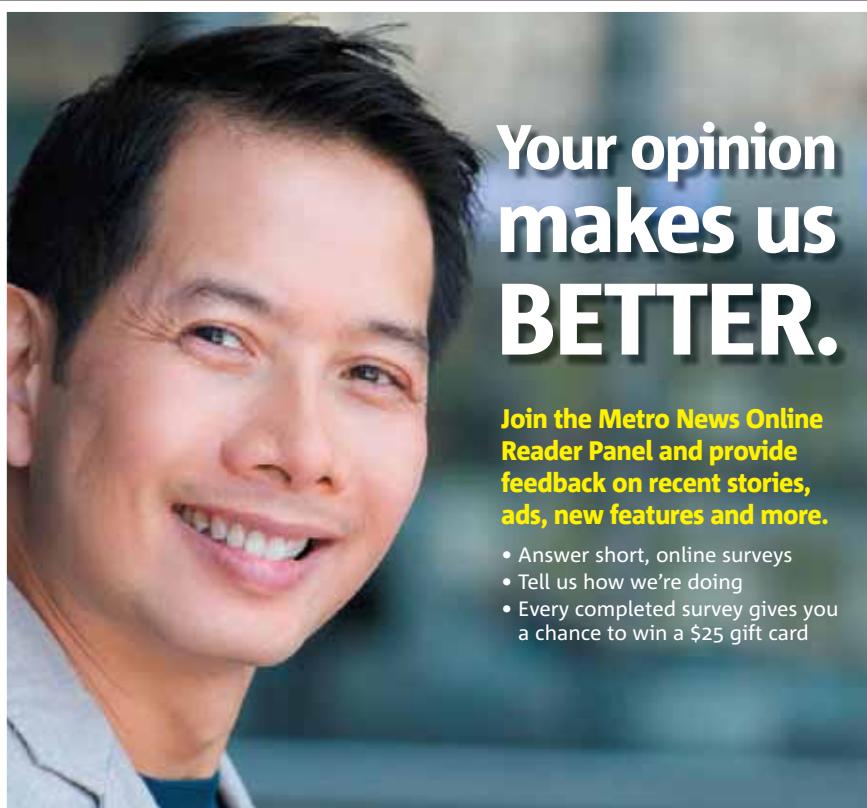
400K

More than 400,000 tournament tickets have already been sold as part of packages. Organizers' attendance target for the tournament is 1.5 million.

formation) or via phone.

The 52-match tournament runs June 6 to July 5 in Moncton, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The preliminary-round features 15 doubleheaders and six single matches. The knockout rounds consist of 16 individual matches. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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metro

2015 Volkswagen GTI	Market position	Points	Notable features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Type. Three- or five-door sport hatchbackEngine. 2.0-litre turbocharged I4 (210 hp)Transmissions. Six-speed manual, six-speed DSG automaticPrice. \$29,390 base, \$34,985 as tested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A performance model of the VW Golf lineup, just below ultimate Golf sportster, the Golf R.Pioneer of the Hot Hatch movement, which proves that a small, practical, and relatively inexpensive car can still offer excellent performance.Three trim variants: base 3-door, 3-door Autobahn, 5-door Autobahn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2015 is the first year for the 7th-generation Golf and GTI.Longer, lower and wider than the previous GTI. Also more aerodynamic, lighter, and more fuel-efficient.Engine is the latest version of VW's 2.0-litre direct-injection turbo, with 201 hp and 258 lb.-ft. of torque.Still using GTI's trademark and quirky tartan cloth seat material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">18-inch wheels, red brake calipers, flat-bottom sport steering wheel.5.8-inch touch-screen that you don't need to touch (uses proximity sensors).Available premium audio system with eight speakers and a subwoofer, designed by Fender.Forward-collision warning system. Electronic stability control with sport mode.



The GTI comes with two or four doors, along with the hatchback.

Hot hatch still brings the heat



Review. Next-gen Golf makes a wonderful base for the new GTI. Bigger, lower, faster and more of everything you want

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Volkswagen's GTI might not have been the first hot hatch when it debuted way back in late 1970s. But it was the first to sell in big numbers, which helped popularize the concept of a fun, performance vehicle that was also practical and economical.

The 2015 GTI is the seventh generation of this hot hatch from Germany. It is still wearing plaid or tartan seat material, just like the original, and is still a wonderful idea — but now even

more wonderfully executed. For one thing, I think it's the best-looking GTI yet, with clean bodylines, and LED-infused headlamp cluster, and 18-inch alloy wheels, which look massive on such a compact vehicle.

As scripted by those big wheels and the aggressive, low-profile tires, the GTI bites into corners and accelerates out of them with precision and competence. And the new variable, electric steering system delivers just the right feel and quickness through a chunky steering wheel, which now features a flat bottom like a race car.

I feared those low-profile tires were going to deliver a punishing ride, but the car is comfortable around town and nice and stable, not twitchy, on the highway.

Although I haven't driven this new GTI on a track, those who have suggest it might be



PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

GTI keeps its traditional plaid or tartan seats, but adds a flat-bottom racing wheel.

a bit soft for at-the-limit driving. But who cares, when it is so perfectly optimized for spirited street driving? The car also finally gets a selectable sport mode for its stability control system, so you can have fun further down the traction scale before the safety systems kick in to save your hide.

The new 2.0-litre turbo engine is also a high point, delivering 210 horses and 248 lb.-ft. of torque in a really linear — and fun — manner. There is no turbo lag to speak of, and it revs easily and in a refined manner right to the top. Sounds good, too.



1 Ford Focus ST
Base price: \$30,664

Hot-hatch version of the Focus offers 252 horses and is very racy.



2 Subaru WRX
Base price: \$31,645

Sporty Sube offers 268 horses but no hatchback option.



3 Mini Cooper
Base price: \$27,862

Retro-cute two-door model packs in 189 horses.

My tester had the six-speed manual transmission, and it shifted as smoothly as any I've tried in a while. A six-speed automatic is optional.

The new Golf platform is bigger and wider, so the GTI predictably offers more room and general comfort. The eight-way power sport seats are massive and supportive.

So what's not to like?

Well, prices are climbing on this sports car for the masses. The new GTI starts at \$27,995, and our top-shelf Autobahn trim, with the optional Technology Package, was sitting pretty at \$33,590.

But if you're a fan of hot hatches, you will undoubtedly be drawn to the heat of the new GTI.

5
DRIVE

Connecting cars could solve traffic woes

Driving Force. Cars that can communicate with each other and roadway infrastructure could help ease traffic congestion

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

What's going to be the future of mobility? Most people talk about self-driving cars and more public transit, but many experts believe increased connectivity between personal cars will be the driving force behind improving traffic flow.

"The amount of global infrastructure spent on transport, especially public transit, is very high," says Sarwant Singh, a senior partner with consulting and analyst firm Frost & Sullivan.

"The car will become more and more important as part of an integrated mobility solution."

Many cars are already connected, offering smartphone



Vehicles that can talk to one another could reduce collisions, improve traffic flow and complement transit. CONTRIBUTED

integration or even WiFi hotspots, but Singh believes they will eventually operate through cloud computing to harness the power of Big Data — an interconnected web of information from numerous sources.

In future, for example,

you might be able to plan your entire trip through your smartphone, with all of the connections (including trains or airplanes) mapped out to the minute and on one ticket.

Your car's parking spot would even be reserved and paid. Wireless sensors in the

parking garage would locate an empty spot and send the information to your car's navigation system, which would guide you directly to it once you arrive.

This connectivity will also link with car-sharing services, integrating them as part

of public transit.

"The initial car-sharing model was A to B," Singh says. "Now we're seeing floating ones, where you can take or drop them anywhere. One of the expenses is parking and maintenance, so rather than put them in a specific place, we will see host parking, where they will be in people's driveways."

"There are also new car-sharing models, such as one in the U.S. where you take your own car to the airport, and someone else drives it while you're away."

By communicating with connected infrastructure, cars could gain access to low-emission zones or high-occupancy lanes put in place to optimize traffic flow, or even talk to other vehicles to know where they are and avoid crashes.

Although self-driving cars are under development, they're not expected for at least a decade or more, as they are dependent on traffic infrastructure and will need new legislation to allow their use.

Connecting the dots

- It is estimated that 80 to 120 billion connected devices will be in use by 2020.
- Car-sharing grew by 50 per cent in 2013, and there are expected to be 26.2 million members worldwide within five years.
- Connected cars will be able to wirelessly download software updates, monitor recalls, and upload diagnostic information to the dealer.

Singh also speculates that drivers could use Internet aggregators to help them shop for cars, including the projected costs of fuel, maintenance and insurance.

The app could even direct the buyer to a dealer who has a specific used car that would be a better choice than a new one.

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Unveiled last week at the Detroit auto show, the Cascada is Buick's first convertible model in 25 years. CONTRIBUTED

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Detroit show. Get set to drop your top as convertibles enjoy a resurgence

North Americans are ready to let their tops down and feel the wind blow through their hair.

That's the feeling among automakers as they roll out new convertible models at a time when many consumers are gaining confidence in the economy and have more money to spend on less-

practical big-ticket items thanks to juicy stock market returns.

At this month's auto show in Detroit, Buick, Alfa Romeo and BMW all revealed glitzy open-air models to capitalize on that newfound confidence, and industry analysts expect more to come.

IHS Automotive, an industry consulting firm, predicts there will be 60 convertible models in the U.S. by 2020, 15 more than last year and the most since at least 2000.

"New models drive sales up," said senior analyst Stephanie Brinley, whose firm expects convertible sales to rise 63 per cent over the next five years, from 152,400 last year to 248,000 in 2020.

Following the recession, sales of convertibles tailed off and few new models were added. As vehicle development budgets were cut during the recession, convertibles were early casualties, says Brinley.

But now, with unemployment down and the stock market and luxury car sales up, automakers are looking for niches such as convertibles to increase sales in a competitive market. IHS estimates convertible sales grew nearly 9 per cent last year.

"The fear of conspicuous consumption is dead," says Michelle Krebs, senior analyst with autotrader.com. "Everybody's getting back into performance and the sexy, flashy mode. Convertibles play into that."

At the Detroit show, General Motors unveiled the Cascada, a Buick version of a stylish Opel convertible from Europe.

Fiat Chrysler is showing off its Alfa Romeo 4C Spider hardtop, which can be con-

Soft-top choices

- Six years ago, there were 48 convertible models available to North American car shoppers. Last year, there were 45, but several new models are coming soon.

- Current convertible choices range in price from \$20,000 for a Fiat 500C to \$850,000 for a Porsche 918 Spyder.

verted to open air.

BMW has a refreshed M6 high-performance convertible.

The four-seat Buick is the brand's first convertible in 25 years. It has an insulated soft top that can be opened in 17 seconds with the car travelling at up to 50 km/h.

It also has a turbocharged 200-horsepower engine and a safety system that deploys rollover protection bars behind the rear seats if the car detects a crash is possible.

The Cascada is just what Buick needs to keep its sales momentum going, especially in the prime convertible market of Florida, says Ed Williamson, who runs a Buick-GMC-Cadillac dealership in Miami.

Currently, Williamson says he has no convertible cars to sell against the ubiquitous German and Japanese models. "We see an awful lot of Lexus convertibles in this market," he says.

The convertible also helps Buick continue to change its once-stodgy image with a sportier, younger vehicle, said spokesman Nick Richards. The average age of a Buick buyer has fallen from 62 to 59 in the past six years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fiat Chrysler is bringing the Alfa Romeo 4C Spider to North America, one of several new convertibles arriving this year. CONTRIBUTED

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Most cars may soon travel 100 km on less than one litre of fuel

Family cars of the next decade will be the most economical and cleanest-burning mainstream cars ever built, thanks to cutting-edge technologies already being developed and proven, says Autocar magazine. It outlined the top new technologies that will propel the average family car while cutting emissions and returning fuel-efficiency levels better than 0.8 L/100 km. They include advanced flywheels, electric turbochargers, intelligent aerodynamics, variable-ratio compression engines and enclosed wheel wells that return big reductions in aerodynamic drag. These advances come with a cost, warns editor-in-chief Chas Hallett. "Car makers will have to be careful (as) the advance of green technology could prove devastating for companies already surviving on a slim profit margin."

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Cars like the VW Golf improve fuel efficiency through technological advances in the engine and aerodynamics.

FedEx fleet tests diesel, hydrogen range extenders in United States and France

Courier and car-rental companies have long been the leaders in testing the commercial benefits of alternatively powered and fuelled vehicles. Running huge global fleets, they constantly seek ways to cut emissions and fuel costs while improv-

Honda passes motorcycle milestone

Honda, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles, recently produced its 300-millionth bike. The 2015 Goldwing touring model is a machine so sophisticated and advanced that it's doubtful the company's founder, Soichiro Honda, could ever have imagined it when he founded the company in 1946. His first motorcycle, the single-cylinder Model D, or Dream, helped mobilize post-war Japan and establish a reputation for fuel-efficient transportation. Honda is best known today as a builder of cars, notes AutoWeek, "but the company simply wouldn't be where it is now if not for its truly groundbreaking two-wheeled offerings ... its motorcycles and scooters give tens of millions of individuals in developing nations the option of mobility every year."



The first Honda motorcycle was the Model D, or Dream, launched in 1946. Honda has since built more than 300 million motorbikes.

Shift points

- In announcing that its FCV hydrogen-fuel-cell vehicle will launch in Japan by March 2016, and then in the United States and Europe, Honda also joined the public-private partnership H2USA, whose goal is to cost-effectively deliver hydrogen across the United States.



Honda's FCV.

- Car2Go, the car-sharing company owned by Daimler Benz, recently passed the 1-million-member mark. Driving a fleet of 12,000 Smart cars in 60 cities and eight countries, Car2Go members have driven more than 218 million kilometres and taken more than 32 million trips, the company said.

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Don't be tempted to try something you're not familiar with. With Mercury beginning a retrograde phase mistakes are more likely than not.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 20

You may find it hard getting through to a loved one today but it's no big deal so don't worry about it. Chances are they don't want to hear what you have to say. Don't press it.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If your sixth sense tells you that someone is not being honest with you then, yes, you should be on your guard. But don't make accusations unless you can back them up with facts.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Something you had high hopes for seems to have come to nothing and you are disappointed. Don't dwell on it because there are other interesting things you could be doing.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The planets urge you to keep a low profile today because if you call attention to yourself in your usual Leo way someone may decide to make a target of you.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you make a move without your partner's permission you may never hear the last of it. Whatever you want to do today be clear with your partner.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

A friend may want you to join them at a social event today but don't force yourself if you don't feel up to it. Cosmic activity in the wellbeing area of your chart means you need rest.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

It may be hard to stay calm if someone in a position of power gives you a hard time but chances are they are winding you up to see how you react.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Someone may say you have no right to occupy a certain position but as far as you're concerned possession is nine-tenths of the law and you intend to stay where you are.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

As mind planet Mercury begins a retrograde phase, the more others try to convince you that something is clearly right the more likely it is to be wrong.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Sometimes it's OK to be suspicious and this is one of those occasions. If your sixth sense tells you to take care then be smart and listen to it.

♓ Pisces

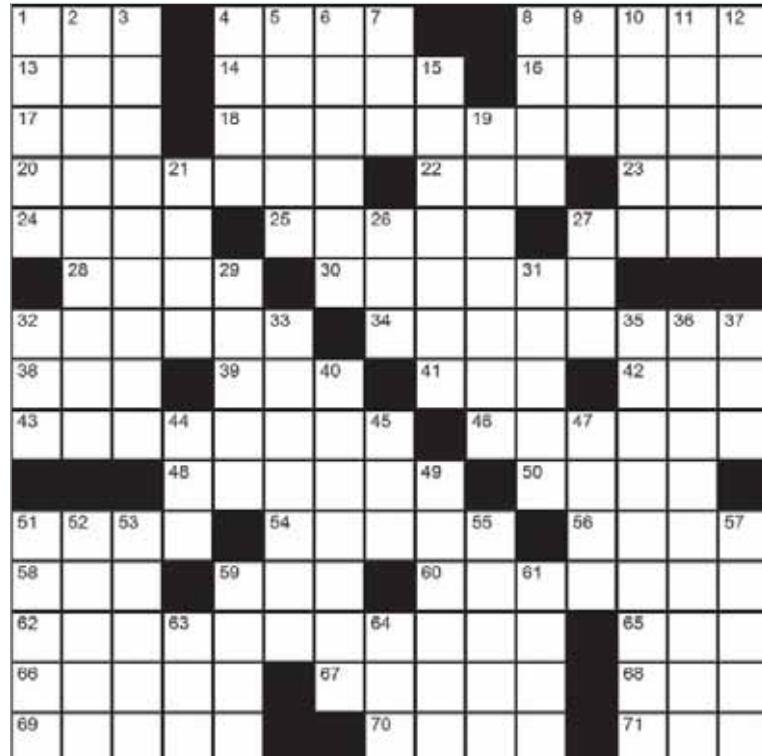
Feb. 20 - March 20

Do you listen to someone who claims to know what is going on or do you listen to that voice inside your head that says they are talking trash? You know the answer to that one already.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

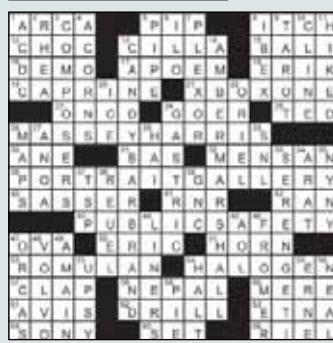
1. Current ooy portrayer ...his initials-sharers
4. Clever ones
8. Ceremony spot
13. McDonald's founder's monogram
14. Major artery
16. __ Bridge ...it connects Canada (Fort Erie, Ontario) to the USA (Buffalo, New York)
17. " __ questions?"
18. Merchant sort
20. Heart-related
22. Tic-Tac-Toe loser
23. __ Islands, Indonesia
24. Aroma, variably
25. Cupboard part
27. Formal org.
28. Long-range weapon, commonly
30. Largest private sector union in Canada
32. Lise Watier fare
34. Street-side stand
38. Singleton
39. Debit opps.
41. Mr. Pendleton of "Northwest Passage"
42. Mon. in Montreal
43. Dave __ Band
46. "You __ worry." (There, there...)
48. Friendly
50. Rhett's expletive
51. Advocate
54. Victorious: 2 wds.
56. Pronounces
58. 'Bad'-meaning prefix
59. Fad game disc
60. French actress Ms. Paradis
62. "Smalltown Boy" band: 2 wds.
65. Mr. Robbins
66. Particular puzzle
67. Without plasmas, e.g.: 2 wds.
68. AB city
69. "Things __ what they seem."
70. Get from __ (Advance slightly)
71. King: Spanish
72. Harry Potter: __ Malfoy
73. Hockey, Moose, The Guess Who,



69. "Things __ what they seem."
70. Get from __ (Advance slightly)
71. King: Spanish
72. Harry Potter: __ Malfoy
73. Hockey, Moose, The Guess Who,
- Maple Syrup, Ottawa...
3. Intensely increase
4. "What __ thinking?"
5. Bits
6. East Central Alberta town
7. Bering, e.g.
8. Acme
9. Cake brand, with Sara
10. Spanish appetizers
11. Great tennis servers
12. Any "Corner Gas" episode now
15. __ harp (It sounds in the wind)
19. Moe __, Toronto-

born jazz musician 21. "Will the __ able to see me?" ...wondered the patient 26. Blown-up pic 27. Alsatian artist Jean 29. A lot, in Spain 31. Selected 32. Blythe, to Gwyneth 33. Make some stuff for the meal ahead of time 35. Da Vinci or Rembrandt, for example: 2 wds. 36. City TV's neighbourly Canadian sketch comedy show 37. Mtn. blaster 40. Flute tune by #19-Down: " __ Shepherd Blues" 44. Blood-sucker, when doubled 45. Roasted 47. Alleviate 49. Pattie __-Reid, Chief Financial Commentator for CTV News 51. Space shadow 52. Less common 53. Spherical map 55. 'The Flying Finn' Mr. Nurmi 57. Sugar __, Canadian comedian 59. Attention-getter 61. US travel watchdog dog 63. Called-one's occupation 64. Fluffy scarf

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	4	8	2	7	5	6
8	6	5	1	9	7	3	2	4
2	4	7	6	3	5	8	1	9
7	5	2	8	4	9	1	6	3
4	9	6	7	1	3	2	8	5
3	8	1	2	5	6	9	4	7
9	1	4	3	6	8	5	7	2
6	2	3	5	7	1	4	9	8
5	7	8	9	2	4	6	3	1

9	5	7		
3	6			
5	8			9
9			3	
7			6	5
2	3			
7			4	
2	3			6
4	8			
4	1	2		

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